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**STOCKTON METHAMPHETAMINE DEALER SENTENCED TO OVER 17 YEARS IN
FEDERAL PRISON**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that Miguel Angel SANDOVAL, 28, of Stockton, California, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr., to over 17 years in federal prison. The defendant had previously entered guilty pleas to charges of conspiracy to possess and distribute methamphetamine and possessing with the intent to distribute methamphetamine in violation of federal law on February 28, 2006.

This case is the product of an extensive, joint investigation by the San Joaquin Metropolitan Narcotics Task Force (known as "METRO") and the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA").

According to Assistant United States Attorney Jason Hitt, who prosecuted the case, Mr. SANDOVAL engaged in large-scale methamphetamine distribution in Stockton from his home in Galt, California. SANDOVAL was caught after METRO and DEA conducted an extensive investigation into SANDOVAL's drug dealing, using surveillance and confidential informants. Agents discovered SANDOVAL was distributing half-pound quantities and more of methamphetamine from his residence in Galt, California, while using a lawn care service as a cover for his illegal narcotics trafficking.

“Methamphetamine is a highly addictive and destructive drug. Federal authorities will continue to join forces with our state and local counterparts to eradicate it from our communities,” said United States Attorney Scott.

The investigation began in April 2005 and ended on June 8, 2005, when agents arrested SANDOVAL with 11 pounds of methamphetamine in his car. The same day, agents served a federal search warrant at SANDOVAL’s Galt residence and discovered an additional 14 pounds of methamphetamine. The June 8th seizure of 25 pounds from SANDOVAL was one of the largest methamphetamine busts handled by the METRO Task Force for San Joaquin County in 2005.

In sentencing SANDOVAL to 210 months in federal prison, United States District Judge Damrell said SANDOVAL had committed a serious offense by distributing huge quantities of methamphetamine into the community. The judge found that a 210-month sentence was appropriate to punish the crimes and protect the community.

There is no early release on parole in the federal system. After serving virtually their entire sentence, defendants in the federal system must also serve a period of supervised release in the community.

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